



# LENNOX SCHOOL DISTRICT 41-4

Serving the communities of Chancellor, Lennox, & Worthing  
EVERY SCHOOL. EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

08/12/2020

To: Lennox School District Families

From: Chad Conaway, Superintendent

Re: Return to Learn and Activities Plan

---

Greetings Lennox School District Families,

On August 10, the school board approved the “Return to Learn” plan for the Lennox School District. This also includes our plans for returning to activities this fall. Please note that both of these documents are subject to change as the school year progresses. Information about the spread of COVID-19 and the virus itself is continually evolving and we will adapt with these changes. We have done our best to align our plans with what medical professionals have suggested to be best practice. I encourage you to review the information provided in the links below.

The issue of mandating face mask use at school and activities elicits a contentious response. Opinions on both sides of this issue are present, but the only responsible approach is to follow our medical professionals’ direction (Again, please see links below). The following highlights the requirements for face masks:

- Staff are required to wear masks when 6’ social distancing cannot be achieved.
- Students in grades PK-4 are required to wear masks in hallways and during close contact group work when appropriate mask use can be supervised.
- Students in grades 5-12 are required to wear masks when 6’ social distancing cannot be achieved. This includes hallways, classrooms, and common areas. Mask breaks will be implemented to provide safe opportunities for students to remove their mask.
- Students will not be required to wear a mask while outside or during the lunch period while eating. Social distancing should be practiced to the greatest extent possible in these situations.

If you believe your student is unable to comply with any of the District’s COVID-19 Return to Learning implementations, or if you believe additional implementations are necessary for your child, please provide documentation from a health care provider to support your request for an accommodation. This information should be submitted to your student’s building principal. Once the building principal receives documentation from a doctor, the district can work with you to determine whether your child qualifies for a 504 plan, which is a plan for teaching students with disabilities.

**Our Mission:** To work together to inspire lifelong learners who innovate, persevere, and collaborate to solve the challenges of tomorrow.

Our return to activities plan addresses a variety of issues, but I want to highlight a few items in this letter. We have designed the plan around three phases that take into account both community spread and internal school spread. Lincoln County is currently designated as having substantial community spread, and as such, we will begin in phase II of this plan as it relates to spectators at events. I suspect that we will primarily fluctuate between the four levels of phase II throughout the fall as we encounter positive cases within our school buildings. In a simplistic explanation, the more cases we see in our counties and in our schools, the more restrictive fan attendance becomes. In all cases, spectators will be required to wear a mask at indoor events and will only be recommended to wear a mask at outdoor events. Our primary goal is to preserve our students' opportunity to participate in their activities and avoid the cancelation or postponement of any event. To counter the effects of limited spectator attendance, we made the decision to provide **FREE** access to all events streamed in the Lennox High School Gymnasium and at the Football field on the NFHS Network for the 2020/21 school year <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/Lennox-high-school-Lennox-sd>. Limiting spectator attendance will be one of the best ways to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Please note that the return to activities plan is specific to Lennox School District. When we travel to events outside of the district, we will be expected to follow the requirements of the school hosting the event. Our activities department will communicate this information on a regular basis and as much as possible, they will do so within 24 hours of the event. Everyone must be flexible this fall. There will likely be situations that require last minute cancelations due to positive cases at home or away.

### **Activity Passes**

Due to the fact that game cancelations may occur and limited spectator participation is likely, we want to offer families who have already purchased an activity pass the opportunity to be reimbursed. All reimbursement requests for activity passes must be made by Friday, August 28 at 4:00. To initiate a reimbursement request, simply send an email to [lennoxaccountspayable@k12.sd.us](mailto:lennoxaccountspayable@k12.sd.us). If you do not submit a request by this date, all activity pass purchases will be treated as a donation regardless of limitations to home events.

**Return to Learn Plan:** [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/853112/Return\\_to\\_Learn\\_Plan\\_8-10-20.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/853112/Return_to_Learn_Plan_8-10-20.pdf)

**Return to Activities Plan:** [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/853123/Lennox\\_Return\\_to\\_Activities\\_Plan\\_8-11-2020.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/853123/Lennox_Return_to_Activities_Plan_8-11-2020.pdf)

**Links to return to school literature:**

South Dakota State Medical Association

[https://core-](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/853131/South_Dakota_State_Medical_Association.pdf)

[docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/853131/South\\_Dakota\\_State\\_Medical\\_Association.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/853131/South_Dakota_State_Medical_Association.pdf)

Universal Masking to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Transmission—The Time Is Now

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2768532>

Masks

[https://m.box.com/shared\\_item/https%3A%2F%2Fucsf.app.box.com%2Fs%2Fblvolkp5z0myzd82rjks4wyleagt036](https://m.box.com/shared_item/https%3A%2F%2Fucsf.app.box.com%2Fs%2Fblvolkp5z0myzd82rjks4wyleagt036)

American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Guidance for School Reopening

<http://www.sickkids.ca/PDFs/About-SickKids/81407-COVID19-Recommendations-for-School-Reopening-SickKids.pdf>

CDC Considerations for Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

On a final note, if you do not feel comfortable sending your child to school this fall, we are providing a virtual learning option through Black Hills Online Learning. Students in grades K-8 will be committed to this option for a minimum of one quarter. Students in grades 9-12 will be committed to this option for a minimum of one semester. Registration for the virtual learning option is due by August 21, 2020. Please contact your building principal with any questions.

I wish you a continued safe and healthy summer,

Dr. Chad Conaway, Superintendent  
Lennox School District

## **Announcing K-12 Virtual Learning from Lennox School District and Black Hills Online Learning Community**

**Dear Parent or Guardian,**

An online/ virtual program is being offered for students in grades K-12 who do not feel comfortable coming back to school for on-campus instruction this fall. This program is approved through the South Dakota Department of Education and provided by Black Hills Online Learning Community (BHOLC). You can register your child by clicking on the appropriate grade level link on this page <https://www.bholc.org/> . Once you have registered online, you will be given access to paperwork to email or deliver to your building principal for approval of your participation in this program.

Enrolled K-12 students will have the opportunity to engage in an online learning program that includes English, social studies, science, and math, as well as many electives for grades 9-12, while employing the flexibility of learning from home during the pandemic. Lennox is offering these courses in partnership with Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and Technology & Innovation in Education (TIE). The courses and curriculum are provided by FuelEducation /K<sup>12</sup> ([www.k12.com/](http://www.k12.com/)), and Edmentum (<https://www.edmentum.com/>), national providers that has extensive experience in successfully implementing online programs.

Parents of students taking a distance class can expect:

- Communication and advice from highly qualified teachers through e-mail, telephone, or web-conferencing.
- Access to online lessons 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from anywhere an internet connection is available.
- Credit earned from their local school district following local district policies in these rigorous and engaging courses.

Parents of students will:

- Serve as the primary learning coach to the student -- allow 3-5 hours per day for learning coach support.
- Provide the necessary technology to access the online learning platform (one computer per child (provided by the school district and high-speed internet access. Tablets are not compatible).
- Enroll students in a partnering public-school district by August 21, 2020 in order to obtain free access to the online courses.
- Ensure that students in grades 3-8 and 11 will report to their school for participation in mandated yearly testing.

If you have questions, please consult the online information available at <http://bholc.org> or contact Connie Godfrey at [cgodfrey@tie.net](mailto:cgodfrey@tie.net), 605-721-4506, or 605-394-1876.

**Connie Godfrey**

*Coordinator*

*Black Hills Online Learning Community*

Technology & Innovation in Education (TIE)

Direct: 605.721.4506 | Office: 605.394.1876

1925 Plaza Boulevard | Rapid City, SD 57702